

Hi Fans!

This month we go behind the scenes of "The London Bridge Special" which was taped on location at Lake Havasu, Arizona. Believe me, the "behind the scenes" happenings were quite the opposite of what you will view on your TV sets; and hilariously "way out".

Falcon, the McCullough plane which jetted them to Havasu was shared with "Wu Wu" & "Dog-Dog" two adorable Pekinese dogs, plus a delightful large black Shepard. When they landed hungry, at 10:00 pm they turned into the nearest restaurant only to be told it was too late to be served. So hungry, cold & dejected, they found their way to the Pub below the Bridge where they were served a fine meal by friendly and gracious waitresses.

Their next day began at 7:00 a.m. while it was still cold. Shooting that day was on the Bridge where they encountered numerous problems. The Bridge is part of McCullough Drive which is the main thoroughfare thru town; and though police tried to divert some of the traffic, there were some cars and pedestrians on the Bridge at all times. Noise of course, was a serious problem with planes, motor boats, and talking people contributing their share of upsets and confusion. It took six hours to tape one small segment of Jennifer O'Neal talking to Richard & Karen. That afternoon they did a tennis court scene again with Jennifer & this time adding Tom Jones. When it began to get dark they quit shooting & most of the crew went to a bowling alley to have some fun. Tom had never bowled so Karen & Richard had the privilege of teaching him. Then they all shot some pool and called it a day.

The second day they found they had to re-tape the tennis court scene in the morning but afternoon found them in an amphitheater taping a concert. The director had placed a sign near the entrance asking for 100 spectators so they could film an audience. Response was so great they ended up playing to an audience of 3,000 people which they managed to squeeze into the theater. The temperature that afternoon was 90°.

The third day they journeyed to Crystal Beach where beautiful scenes were to be taped. The first scene was on top of a mountain which they reached via a narrow dirt road that wound through a woods. Rocks & boulders had to be moved so the camera & equipment trucks could get through. Even then, accessibility was limited and the mountain had to be climbed on foot by stars & crewmen alike. Adding to climbing woes was the electric piano which was hand carried to the top of the mountain by two members of the crew. On top of the mountain they did a beautiful version of "We've Only Just Begun".

From the mountain they trooped to the desert where they did a groovy rendition of "Close to You".

A lonely island was to be the setting for other scenes & songs so motor boats were filled and people & equipment headed for what they believed would be easy "takes". But this was to be a "never to be forgotten day" for everyone concerned.

The island turned out to be marshland & both motor boats burned out their motors trying to gain access to land in too shallow water. Sugar Bear, their road manager, finally shed his shoes & socks, rolled up his pant legs and pulled the boats in as far as he could but, there was still quite a stretch of ankle deep mud & goop between the boat & dry land where the taping was to be done. So--are you ready for this?---All the stars who were already costumed had to be carried Piggy Back by the rest of the crew through all the mud & goop. Sugar Bear carried Karen who thought it was the most hilarious ride she'd ever had!

The island, virgin & uninhabited had no shelter for crew members during the taping; so it was decided they should hide among the tall, thick cattails that covered the marshland. This proved a good idea until it was time to do a pull-away shot of the island. The camera was loaded into the helicopter for this shot; the stars took their places and the copter took off. Well--the terrific blast of wind generated by the whirleybird was so great that it set everybody spinning, flattened the cattails to reveal crew members and shot mud, water and cattails flying into the clothes, faces and hair of the stars. Karen said that

was the first time she ever had to comb cattails out of her hair! When the mud dried they looked like plaster statues she said.

By this time, the sun had set & the cold desert air was with them once more. They had taken no coats or jackets when they left in the 90° afternoon weather so now they were miserably cold--especially Karen who hadn't really fully recovered from a bout with the flu a few days earlier. So Mr. Winters, the director, flew her in the copter, back to her hotel. With Karen safely on ground, Mr. Winters' good intentions were to return to the island and pick up the rest of the team; but the mischevious gremlins had other ideas. When he tried to restart the whirleybird the battery overheated & blew out the generator. So ended rescue by helicopter. The sheriff's department could not help as he had only one car available & of course there was no way to that island by car. The boats with their burned out motors lie useless, stuck tight now on a sand bar refusing to budge regardless of pushing, pulling, shoving and even a few swift kicks. For a while it looked like the unfortunate souls stuck on "Cattail" island would be sleeping on Cattail beds! But they were rescued quite by accident. One of the crew members returning via boat to the hotel from a different assignment, quite by chance passed nearby and heard what he thought was Donald Duck calling "Rescue me, Rescue me!" This, of course, proved to be Doug, who speaks Donald Duck language quite fluently. So the rescue was completed and a boat load of tired & muddy people were happy to hit their welcoming showers & warm cozy beds.

When we picked a tired Karen & Richard up at the airport on a Tuesday night they were happy to be home, but they knew they would have to return to Havasu for final shots.

They were called to return that Sunday & when their plane approached Havasu they could see traffic backed up for miles on both sides of the Bridge while a dance scene was being filmed on this famous landscape.

Hotel rooms that day were unavailable so Richard & Karen waited in a hot dressing room Van for their call. The gremlins were busy elsewhere so all went well, final takes were made & early Sunday evening they were jetting back to Downey.

So endeth another true episode.

Now---a request of you from Karen & Richard! PLEASE DO NOT SEND LETTERS OR PACKAGES TO THEM WITH A "RETURN RECEIPT" OR "THEIR SIGNATURE ONLY" REQUEST. Most of the time they are not home to sign and when they are home they do NOT go to the post office. No one else is allowed to sign so after a given length of time the mail is returned to the sender who must then pay return postage charges.

Response to the POSTER offer has been great. They are still available for \$1 each. No coupon is needed to send for them. PENNANTS too are available for 50¢.

We've had numerous requests for Carpenters Record "Merry Christmas Darling". Seems some of you couldn't find them in stores at Christmas time. We now have a few on hand in the Fan Club office and they are available for \$1 each.

Carpenters only engagement for March is in Lake Tahoe, Nevada at the Sahara Hotel. They will appear there the 17th, 18th & 19th. Then on March 31st they will open at the Eden Roc Hotel in Miami Beach, Florida and will play there through April 8th.

That's it for now.

EV

P.S. Note for new members. Newsletters 1 thru 10 are available for 50¢ or 5¢ each.
(per set)